

property taxes than what we're proposing in the Legislature, what I'm talking about would be welcomed by the schools once they see the alternatives of what they might be facing. So I think serious discussion about the very specific consequences of levy limits and budget limits is what I'm trying to focus in on here. The abstract talk about how this sounds good, let's go forward, will result in proposals like this that I think are, in my view this is a positive step forward. I know for the rural areas and for those small school districts they hate the idea, it's exactly what they don't want to see happen. But in my view, we do have to talk about consolidation and reorganization of services, where appropriate, and in an attempt to try and reduce cost, to maintain services in a way that has the least expense involved with them. And as I said, what we're trying to do here is balance off the desire for access to schools with a high administrative cost of providing access to education. I think you can separate those issues, that you can still achieve access to the schools and quality to the schools and reduce the cost. I think that's possible. But rather than a very broad, let's put a levy limit on and hope that the schools somehow figure their way through it, that's really what we're talking about with these proposals, I'm suggesting we take the next step. This is the next step. If, in fact, you want to reduce property taxes you have to address the school funding issue. If you address the school funding issue, you have to address the system that we have, the cost of the system, the need to provide efficiency to the system. And so I'm saying, don't stop just with the initial discussion, that's the easy part. The easy part is to say, we need to do something about high property tax, we got to put some sort of limit or levy on it...restriction on it. Okay, let's say that that's something that we can live with. The next part of it is what's hard. It's the, well, how do we do that? And the how do we do that results in any number of actions. They can result in higher numbers of students in classes. It can result in consolidation and reorganization like we're talking about here. It can mean that you don't have some of the services, the programs, the computers out there, the libraries, the arts, and all of the things that I think are important in education, those are all on the block. And where Senator Brown talked about, let's take care of education first and not do some of these other things as much, I'm saying that the next step you have to take is administrative cost, that that is, in fact, the first place we need to go to. The excess administrative bureaucratic cost is where I think the public